



EUSTAR Fellowship

Summary Report



Fellow: Ashihan Avanoglu Guler

Host Institution: Vita-Salute Raffaele University

Dates of Fellowship: 6/10/2025-24/10/2025

Supervisors: Prof. Marco Matucci-Cerinic and Dr Corrado Campochiaro

1. What were the key objectives of your EUSTAR Fellowship, and to what extent were they achieved during your placement?

My fellowship aimed to deepen practical expertise in structured systemic sclerosis evaluation within an EUSTAR centre, and to enhance my clinical competence and judgement in systemic sclerosis, especially when managing complex and treatment-refractory cases. Another important objective was to shape a feasible research proposal with my mentors. These targets were met through supervised clinics, meetings, and project work.

2. How has the Fellowship contributed to your professional development and future career plans in systemic sclerosis research or clinical practice?

Throughout the fellowship, I was able to further develop my clinical skills in systemic sclerosis by actively engaging in outpatient visits, inpatient consultations and case-based discussions, which strengthened my clinical decision-making for complex SSc and improved my confidence in longitudinal monitoring in my clinical practice.

Additionally, with guidance and collaborative input from my mentors, I developed a clinical project that combined a focused review of the literature with a clinical research component in systemic sclerosis.

3. What were the most valuable aspects of your hosting institution's environment (e.g., supervision, facilities, team integration)?

The most valuable aspect of the host environment was the consistent mentorship and constructive feedback provided by Prof. Marco Matucci-Cerinic, Dr Corrado Campochiaro, and their team. Their approachable leadership and structured supervision, together with a strong culture of collaboration and excellent clinical and research infrastructure, enabled meaningful learning, active research engagement, and integration into the department.

4. What suggestions do you have for improving the EUSTAR Fellowship scheme for future participants?

From my perspective, the current EUSTAR Fellowship structure is exceptionally well designed, providing a rare blend of intensive clinical exposure and high-quality research mentorship for both early-career clinicians and physicians wishing to further deepen their expertise. I am sincerely thankful to EUSTAR and the Fellowship Board for their support. I am equally grateful to Prof. Marco Matucci-Cerinic and Dr Corrado Campochario for scientific supervision and unwavering support. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Unit of Immunology, Rheumatology, Allergy and Rare Diseases at San Raffaele Hospital for their warm welcome and generous support throughout my visit.